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5 August 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution List

SUBJECT : CIA Use of USAF Imagery Transmission  
System "COMPASS LINK" (CL)

1. Arrangements have been completed with DIA for CAS Saigon to use the subject facility, on a circuitry available basis, to transmit information classified through TOP SECRET (but not CODEWORD) to Headquarters. Material suitable for transmission includes photos, charts, documents, etc.

2. The CL system operates via Satellite from Saigon to Hawaii to Washington only, not two-way, and is under the operational control of the 12th Recon Intell Tech Sqd (RITS) 7th AF. Arrangements to use the system in Saigon may be made through the DDI representative who is the Station contact.

3. The following points are to be noted:

a. The actual transmission time per image (a 4 x 5 inch negative) is twenty minutes.

b. Because of the necessary photographic preparation at the Saigon terminal, minimum handling time from Saigon to Washington after the station delivers the material to RITS is six hours.

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c. Items up to 20 x 24 inches can be accepted for transmission preparation by RITS.

d. CIA Internal Use Only material may not be transmitted via CL.

4. CAS Saigon will be sending a captured document to Headquarters as a test transmission in the near future. Offices desiring to see the quality of the transmitted end-product may do so by calling the CIA Operations Center,

Chief, CIA Operations Center

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